



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club  
[www.charlotteastronomers.org](http://www.charlotteastronomers.org)

**Next Meeting: Friday, June 16th, 2017**  
**Time: 7:00 PM**  
**Place: Myers Park Baptist Church**  
**Address: 1900 Queens Road**

### **CAAC June 2017 Meeting**

#### How to Get to a Total Solar Eclipse!

In 1998, Spencer Rackley got a free trip to Aruba to see the 1998 total eclipse of the Sun. He also got an ETX EC90 telescope with little red blinking badges! For our June program, Spencer will talk about all that he went through to get there. Come find out what it took for him and what you can do to get to see this summer's eclipse.

Spencer has been married to Kathleen since 1988 and is now retired after a 30-year career in computer programming. His first telescope at age 12 was a 3-inch F/12 Newtonian reflector. He viewed the March 7, 1990, solar eclipse and has now seen four total solar eclipses and one annular eclipse. He has also built two Cookbook cameras. Spencer has been a CAAC member since 1990, serving two years as president of the club. Every Tuesday, he talks about astronomy on the John Boy & Billy radio show.

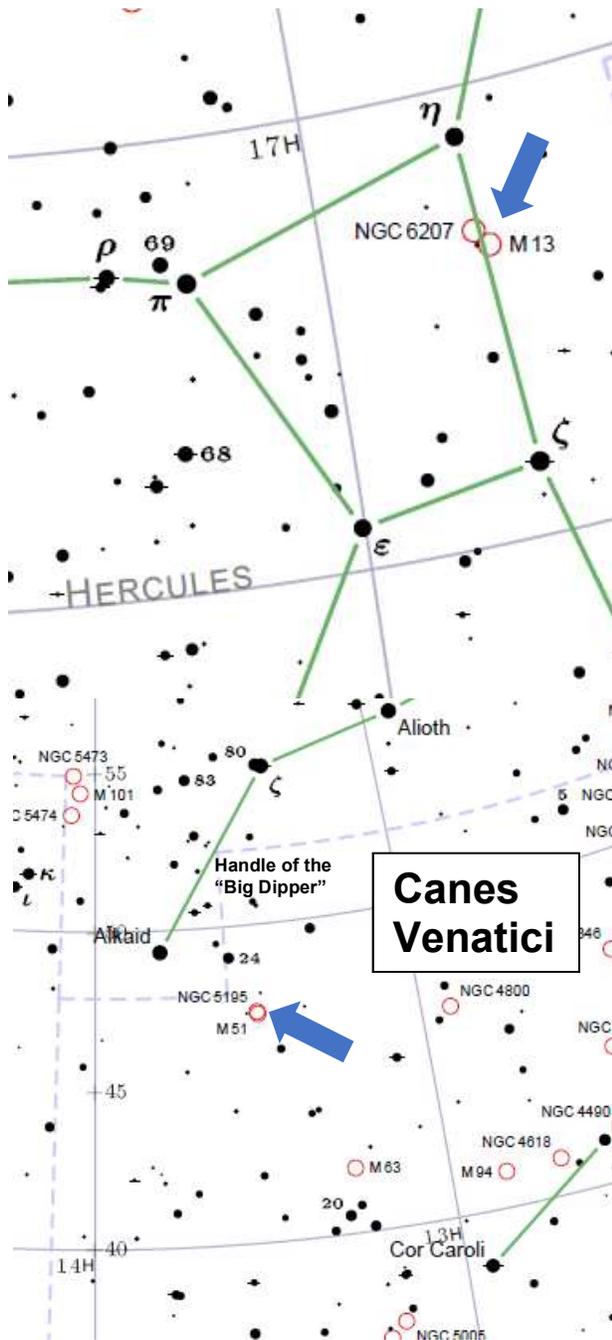
#### July program: Annual CAAC Show-N-Tell

For our July program, we are going to have a "show and tell" evening like we have done in past years. And we want YOU to participate! What have you been working on lately that has been successful for you? What are some of the problems that you've overcome? Have you had an "Ah, ha!" moment along the way. We would like to have four or five club members share their adventures with us.

If you would like to participate in the July program, contact Jack Howard at [jackthoward@earthlink.net](mailto:jackthoward@earthlink.net) or call him at [704-365-5714](tel:704-365-5714).

# June Sky Challenge

Are you looking for something to discover in the night sky? Try these with a modest size telescope, with some patience and persistence! Or come down to the GHRO and get a really fine look!



## Hercules

Globular clusters are gravitationally bound concentrations of stars, which form a nearly spherical system around our galaxy. **M13**, the Great Cluster in Hercules, teeters on the edge of naked eye visibility and appears in binoculars as a small, circular, hazy glow. It contains over 300,000 stars, and its luminosity is 300 thousand times the Sun.

The cluster is located in the “Keystone” of Hercules. Small refractors or large binoculars show a large, bright smudge, but resolution of individual stars is difficult. A 4.5-inch telescope starts to show stars at the cluster’s edge as individual points, and with a 6-inch scope their images are strong and steady.

## Canes Venatici

Of all the countless island universes scattered across the sky, none seem as exciting as M51, the renowned **Whirlpool Galaxy**. Once believed to be a great swirling nebula, M51 is now known to be the finest example of a face-on spiral galaxy. The Whirlpool, just a few degrees southwest of the end star in the Dipper’s handle, is visible as a hazy patch even in binoculars. From dark, clear sites, high-quality 6- to 8-inch telescopes will readily show M51’s graceful arms arcing around its bright central core. Don’t overlook M51’s companion, **NGC 5195**, which apparently Messier did when he observed M51 in 1773. Conspicuous in the small telescope, this satellite system gives the appearance of being attached to the north spiral arm of M51.

Acknowledgements:

NightSkyInfo [www.nightskyinfo.com/archive](http://www.nightskyinfo.com/archive) for target descriptions, adapted.

Mag Star 7 Star Atlas Project © 2005 Andrew L. Johnson for star maps (clipped)

## What’s Up in the Sky?

**Highly Recommended** Download and print a good **FREE** star map (including interesting objects to look for) monthly from:

Skymap <http://www.skymaps.com/downloads.html>

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## FROM THE SECRETARY:

### ATTENTION:

If you are a former CAAC member and have not been keeping up with your membership dues, firstly please come back! We'd love to reconnect you with the love of astronomy through our club, use of GHRO observatory, and the camaraderie of our members.

But, in addition to that over the next several weeks I will be undergoing a membership maintenance effort to identify former members who are not current on their dues. This is primarily for the following reasons:

- 1) Lack of space in the ID tag case. I will be removing old members from the case to make room for current & active members.
- 2) Re-use of the plastic 2x3 clip-on badge holders. Believe it or not, it's practically impossible to find new badge holders in the 2x3" size. Removing old members will allow me to reuse the plastic holders for our new members.
- 3) Clean up the newsletter email list. If you are not current with your membership and would still like to receive the CAAC monthly newsletter, please renew your membership today!

Please see Benton at the Treasurer's desk at the monthly meeting or renew online here:

<http://www.charlotteastronomers.org/membership.htm>

Please also remember to return your badges on the table near the exit at the end of the meeting before you leave! Doing this will significantly reduce the chances of badges getting lost and reduce the amount of time (and cost) of having to re-create your name tag if it is lost. Thank you!

### Register with the **Night Sky Network**

It is imperative that all members of the CAAC join the Night Sky Network (NSN). Many of the clubs outreach activities are managed by the NSN, as well as club communications (newsletters, event notifications, general email). The NSN is a wonderful tool specifically designed for amateur astronomy clubs like ours. Membership allows you to contact other members via email, and receive last minute updates for outreach events via text message: [http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-apply.cfm?Club\\_ID=1468&ApplicantType=Member](http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-apply.cfm?Club_ID=1468&ApplicantType=Member)

### Pre-Monthly Meeting Gathering

Several CAAC members gather at Panera Bread (601 Providence Road, just a few blocks from our meeting place) at 5:30 prior to the monthly meeting. Anyone interested in sharing a meal with them is welcome.

## CAAC Treasurer's Report as of 5-31-2017

Part 1 of 2

### Operating Fund

Purpose: Enable the CAAC to pursue our non-profit goals, maintain our facilities, and run our programs:

- Funds are acquired through ongoing receipts of dues, fees, and annual net Southern Star income (or expense).
- Funds are expended to meet operating obligations of the club.

<b>1</b>	<b>Operating Fund Balance: 4-30-2017</b>	<b>\$11,587.98</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Income</b>	
	Dues & Fees	285.00
	Southern Star Net Contribution After Expenses	2,472.77
	Prepaid Subscriptions	0.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	
	GHRO Expenses	578.46
	GHRO Utilities	264.51
	Fees for Credit Card Service	5.55
	Meeting Expense	11.00
	Administrative	80.42
<b>4</b>	<b>Operating Fund Balance: 5-31-2017</b>	<b>\$13,405.81</b>

Part 2 of 2

### Non-Operating Funds

Purpose: Administer gifts and donations for designated use.

<b>1</b>	<b>Balance 4-30-2017: Non-Operating Funds</b>	
	Scholarship Fund	5,315.00
	Contingency Fund	20,352.00
	Long-Term Fund	2,920.77
<b>2</b>	<b>Income</b>	
	Donation: Bank of America	100.00
	Donation: Duke Energy	100.00
	Interest	0.73
<b>3</b>	<b>Expenses or Transfers</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Balance 5-31-2017: Non-Operating Funds</b>	
	Scholarship Fund	5,315.00
	Contingency Fund	20,552.00
	Long-Term Fund	2,921.50

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## Updates from Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory

Updates on GHRO activities for this month were not made available at the time of publishing this newsletter. Please stay tuned to the GHRO announcements at the monthly meeting and keep an eye on your inbox. Any activities @ GHRO will be sent via Night Sky Network (NSN) portal. Please ensure you're registered on NSN!

## CAAC CONTACTS

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President	Ken Steiner	<a href="mailto:Ksteiner30@gmail.com">Ksteiner30@gmail.com</a>
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Secretary	Nazim Mohamed	<a href="mailto:info@charlotteastronomers.org">info@charlotteastronomers.org</a>
Observatory Director	Chris Skorlinksi	<a href="mailto:chrisskor@hotmail.com">chrisskor@hotmail.com</a>
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